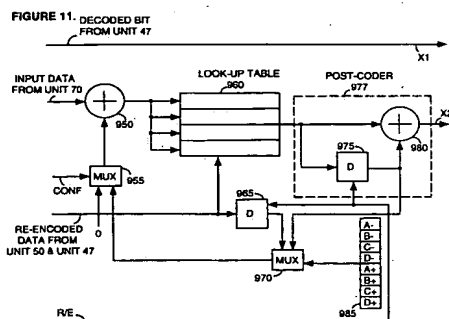


# REMARKS

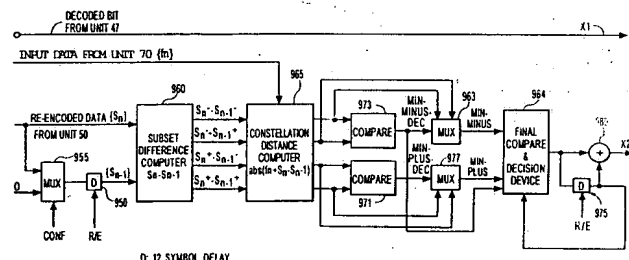
As stated in the Official Action dated June 13, 2006, claims 1-16 and 18-19 have been allowed and the application is in condition for allowance except for the Examiner's continued objection to the drawings.

In particular, the Examiner continues to maintain the objection to figures 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 15 because, according to the Examiner, only that which is old is illustrated and, as such, these figures should have the label -- Prior Art --. With regard to this objection, Applicants' representative notes that the Examiner, in the FINAL Office Action dated September 19, 2005, points to U.S. Patent No. 5,914,988 issued June 22, 1009 to Hu et al. (*Hu*) as having figures that look the same. Applicants' representative respectfully continues to decline to add such a label.

First, while figure 1 of *Hu* and Applicants' figure 1 appear to be the same – they represent different inventions. Indeed, trellis demapper 60 of figure 1 of Applicants' application is **different** from trellis demapper 60 of figure 1 of *Hu*. The fact that they are different is easily shown by a comparison of the figures detailing the respective trellis demappers, shown below. As is readily seen from the side-by-side comparison (shown below), Applicants' trellis demapper 60 is different from trellis demapper 60 of *Hu*. This comparison is shown below.



Trellis demapper 60 of Hu



Applicants' Trellis demapper 60

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Thus, notwithstanding the fact that the same label (trellis demapper 60) is used - the fact is that trellis demapper 60 of Applicants' figure 1 **is different** from trellis demapper 60 of figure 1 of *Hu* and, as such, Applicants' figure 1 is not prior art.

Second, the Examiner's objection is improper. Applicants' application clearly states that

[f]igure 1 shows a video receiver trellis decoder system 24, **according to the invention**, for decoding multiple interleaved datastreams such as data encoded according to the HDTV Standard, for example.

Applicants' specification, p. 4, lns. 26-28, emphasis added.

Applicants' statement cannot be more clear — **Figure 1 illustrates an embodiment of the invention** and, as such, is not prior art.

Likewise, Figures 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14 and 15 relate to the operation of the apparatus shown in Figure 1 and are not prior art. Finally, Figure 12 clearly shows trellis decoder 24 of Figure 1 — which is not prior art — and, as such, Figure 12 is not prior art. In view of the above, the Examiner is wrong to require that Applicants add a "Prior Art" label to these figures.

In view of the above, Applicants request that the objection to the drawings be removed.

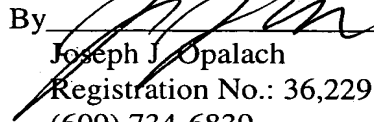
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' attorney in order to overcome any additional objections that the Examiner might have.

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If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment,  
the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 07-0832 therefor.

Respectfully submitted  
Vasudevan Parthasarathy et al.

By   
Joseph J. Opalach  
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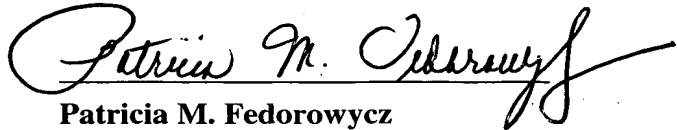
Patent Operations  
Thomson Licensing Inc.  
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Princeton, New Jersey 08543-5312

August 7, 2006

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States  
Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to:  
Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria,  
Virginia 22313-1450 on:

August 8, 2006  
Date

  
Patricia M. Fedorowycz